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BRITISH GUIANA.

Report from Georgetown—Status of yellow fever at Paramaribo, Dutch Guiana.

Consul Clare reports, January 5:

The consular agent at Paramaribo states that from the outbreak on December 18 to January 2 there have been 21 cases of yellow fever, 6 of which terminated fatally, 10 recovered, and 5 remained under treatment.

CHINA.

Report from Shanghai—Inspection of vessels—Plague among rats—Precautions against infection of vessels by rats from the shore—Preventive inoculation among rat collectors.

Acting Assistant Surgeon Ransom reports, December 28:

Week ended December 26. Supplemental bills of health were issued to 4 steamships, having an aggregate personnel of 1,567. There were inspected 3 vessels, 420 members of crews, and 613 steerage passengers. Manifests were viséed for 1,239 pieces of freight.

The steamship *Mongolia* from Shanghai to Manila direct was inspected at Woosung about sunset on the day of sailing. No cargo was shipped from Shanghai by this vessel, and none of her Asiatic personnel was allowed ashore. The steamship *Manchuria* also remained in the stream at Woosung, and the steamship *Sikh*, for New York via Hongkong, and the steamship *Tosa Maru*, for Seattle via Japan, were required to remain at buoys in the river instead of coming to the wharves here. These precautions were taken particularly on account of plague among rats here, and with the view of preventing infection of the vessels from that source.

A circular letter was addressed by this office to steamship agents at this port relative to the prevalence of plague among rats, recommending that vessels bound to American ports remain in the stream while here, and that the communication between the crew and shore be limited as much as possible. Rat guards on all lines either to the shore or to lighters were insisted upon, as was also the hoisting of ladders and gangways at night. Loading exclusively by daylight where possible was also recommended, as was also the fumigation at terminal ports of vessels when empty.

Infected rats continue to be found, but no cases have so far been reported among human beings.

Only rats found dead are being examined bacteriologically. Of these about 12 per cent show plague. The infected area is in what is known as Hongkew, and the largest number of infected rats have been found about one block back from the water front, but such animals have been found distributed over a territory more than 2 miles in length. They are also being found in the vicinity of the filter beds from which the local water supply is drawn.

Gangs for the destruction of rats and for rat-proofing work in the native houses and wharfs are to be organized. Rat-proofing is a hopeless task here because of the character of the native buildings, and it will also be a most difficult problem to destroy rats to a degree which will be effective as a prophylactic measure.